

8 & Under (Coach Pitch)

1. Coach must submit a batting order to the umpire and scorer before game. All players must be listed in a batting order that will not change during said game and must bat in the same order for the entire game. In the event a player is injured (umpire will justify), scorekeeper will be notified and player will be out for the remainder of the game without penalty. No player shall sit in the dugout two consecutive innings (defensively). Ten players are allowed on defense and must play a minimum of every other inning defensively.
2. **A maximum of five runs** or three outs will constitute an offensive inning.
3. Six innings will constitute a game.
4. If after four innings, a team is mathematically eliminated due to the five runs per inning rule, the game shall be called. The losing team shall have the same number of at bats.
5. No team shall play more than three games per day in one tournament.
6. No intentional bunting is allowed. No walks are allowed. Attempted bunts will be called a strike.
7. A circle with a radius of 8 feet is to be drawn around the pitcher's plate. The defensive pitcher must remain in the circle until the ball is struck by the batter.
8. All outfielders shall be positioned in a similar radius. No short fielder or five infielders will be allowed.
9. Each batter will be allowed 6 pitches or 3 strikes. There will be no limit to the number of foul balls on the 3rd strike of the sixth pitch.
10. Head first sliding will not be allowed into any base. Penalty: Runner will be declared out. Diving back to a base is not considered a head first slide.
11. No infield fly rule.
12. No base stealing will be allowed. A runner leaving the base before the ball reaches home plate will be removed from the base and an out will be declared. A delayed dead ball will be called by the umpire.
13. Base runners that miss touching a base shall be called out by the umpire upon the completion of the play. No appeals on missed bases allowed. A delayed dead ball will be called by the umpire.

This supplement was designed to clarify any rules or rule interpretations concerning the Tar Heel Leagues Inc. Softball Program. The following rules will apply in District and State play along with the Tar Heel Leagues Rule Book. ***Any rule not covered by the Tar Heel Leagues Inc. Rule Book will be covered in the National Federation of High School Rule Book (NFHS) for Softball.***

Below are general rules that apply to all age groups for Fast Pitch for 2008.

1 – No steel cleats are allowed.

2 – Any approved and legal softball bat is permitted.

3 – **The Tar Heel League strongly suggests that all batting helmets be equipped with a protective face shield** but it is not a requirement this year.

4 – No Fast Pitch team will play more than three games in one day.

5 – The number of innings pitched in the Fast Pitch program will be monitored just as in the Baseball program which is described in detail in the Tar Heel rule book. It is the responsibility of the head coach of each team to verify innings pitched and to sign the pitching affidavit within thirty minutes of the conclusion of his / her game. If the affidavit is not signed per the rule book then it will be official as stated after that point.

6 – The pitcher and catcher may have a courtesy runner at any time but it is mandatory for the catcher with two outs. The courtesy runner may be any player who is not in the active line-up. If a team only has nine or less players the courtesy runner will be the player making the last out and it can only be for the catcher with two outs. **The catcher must be the catcher of record.**

7 – All coaching requirements for Fast Pitch are the same as in the Tar Heel rule book for Baseball.

8 – All balls used in any Fast Pitch program must meet the specifications as outlined in the NFHS Softball rule book.

9 – Other than the 8U program if a player decides to slide, the slide must be a legal slide as explained in the NFHS Softball rule book.

10 – Other than the 8U program all players may be withdrawn and reentered once. Any substitution cannot change the position of the batter in the batting order.

11 – Other than the 8U program the pitcher may be removed from the mound and may return to the mound in the same game and also in the same inning as long as the return is in accordance with the NFHS Softball rule book.